Virginia Department of

Veterans Services

900 East Main Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 www.virginiaforveterans.com

News Release

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Veterans Town Hall Meetings Scheduled

RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will hold four town hall meetings across the state in early March. A fifth town hall meeting will be held in the greater metro Richmond area in mid-March. These meetings are part of the agency's response to Governor Kaine's Executive Order 19. This executive order directs DVS and other state agencies to improve services to the state's veterans, especially disabled veterans.

"We've identified four primary areas of focus," stated DVS Commissioner Vince Burgess. "These topics are communication with our veterans; quality of life for all veterans; workforce development; and delivery of veterans services by state government."

All veterans and their family members are encouraged to participate in these sessions. The sessions will be highly interactive, structured and facilitated to ensure that all participants have an opportunity to provide their comments and suggestions. Ideas from the sessions will be included in a report to Governor Kaine presenting recommendations for improved service to Virginia's veterans.

Sessions will be hosted at the following locations.

Fredericksburg

March 1, 2007 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. VFW Post #3103 2701 Princess Anne Street Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Abingdon

March 7, 2007 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, Virginia 24212

Suffolk

March 5, 2007 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Nansemond Suffolk Academy Nancy Russell Auditorium 3373 Pruden Blvd. Suffolk, Virginia 23434

Roanoke

March 8, 2007 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Virginia Veterans Care Center 4550 Shenandoah Avenue Roanoke, VA 24017

About the Virginia Department of Veterans Services

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services operates 20 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members in filing claims for VA benefits. The agency operates two cemeteries for veterans: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third cemetery in Dublin, Virginia is in the initial stages of development. The agency operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke. The VVCC is a long-term care facility offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans. The Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center is under construction in Richmond and is slated to open in 2007. The agency also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements, enabling veterans and family members to pursue educational opportunities.